indigenous manufacture of vehicles required for armed forces to avoid lay-offs and retrenchment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) The Vehicle Factory Rashtriya Kamgar Union, Jabalpur, had in 1991, given a representation on some issues which included the apprehended privatisation of defence organisations.

(c) The Vehicle Factory, Jabalpur, continues to produce vehicles for use of armed forces. Steps are being taken to improve the product, keeping in view the specifications provided by the armed forces. There is no proposal of any lay-off or retrenchment of workers at the factory.

Canteen stores department preferring firms of National Repute

*339. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the PRIME MNISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Canteen Stores Department is giving preference to large firms which have been designated as having "National Repute";

(b) if so, what minimum qualifications have to be fulfilled by companies to obtain description of "National Repute";

(c) whether there have been any instance when such categorised firms of "National Repute" were removed from this privileged list;

(d) if so, details of such instances; and

(e) whether there is a periodic review to remove or include firms into the list of "National Repute"?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (e) Canteen Stores Department (CSD) considers all new products, offered for introduction for the first time, and assesses their likely sale potential so that, if purchase decisions are taken, the procurement is only of such products and quantities as would not lead to creation of idle inventories. Some such items are manufactured and offered for introduction by firms of national repute, meaning well known firms whose existing products have an established market. However, this does not ipso facto involve any preferential treatment. All new products are subjected to common assessment procedures, with reference to market survey, pricing etc. No weightage is given to the products of well known firms per se.

The list of items in CSD's inventory is reviewed from time to time with a view to determining whether, on the basis of its performance, an item deserves to be retained in the inventory. The deletion of any item(s) is based entirely on the lack of demand for the product and its poor sales performance, irrespective of the reputation or size of the suppliers|manufacturers.

Land use survey of Nagpur District by satellite

*340. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether land use survey of Nagpur District by Satellite has been made;

(b) if so, what is the major land use pattern and in what manner it differs from the conventional land use survey; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative by when such survey is likely to be undertaken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under the Nationwide landuse cover mapping project for the agro-climatic zones, Department of Space has carried out landuse survey of Nagpur district on 1:250,000 scale using data from Indian Remote Sensing Satellite IRS-1A. The major land use pattern for the Nagpur district as per 1988-89 satellite data are as given below:

Agriculture . .	5,30,636 hectare
Forest . . .	2,22,832 hectare
Wasteland . .	2,07,577 hectare
Water Body .	8,397 hectare
Built-up land .	9,233 hectare
Others . .	144 hectare

The figures obtained from satellite data analysis do not vary much from those obtained using conventional methods. However, surveys carried out using satellite data are more advantageous as compared to conventional surveys, since it is capable of providing timely, repetitive and updated information on the landuse cover on a much faster and cheaper basis.

(c) Does not arise.

Cases of Illness and Deformities in Kerala

2901. SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the cases of serious illness and deformities are increasing among people in Kerala close to the site of nuclear waste;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what measures Government propose ti check the rise of such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Exploration of Uranium

2902. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the States where Uranium deposits have been found by the Atomic Energy scientists during the recent past; and

(b) what are the details of the exploration activities undertaken by Government to extract the Uranium from there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) The Atomic Minerals Division (AMD) of the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), Government of India, has located, in the recent past, uranium deposits at Domiasiat in Meghalaya and at Tummalapalle in Andhra Pradesh.

(b) The AMD has carried out exploratory drilling to evaluate the uranium potential of deposits located at Domiasiat and at Tummalapalle.

About 640 tonnes of bulk ore have been recovered from the Domiasiat deposit by exploratory mining and the samples obtained were studied to characterise the ore for beneficiation. Detailed evaluation report on the Domiasiat uranium deposit has been submitted to the Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UGIL) for commercial exploitation. Exploratory mining at Tummalapalle to obtain bulk ore samples for beneficiation and ore amenability studies is in progress.

Numerous uranium occurrences, located in Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Meghalaya Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, in the recent past, are in various stages of exploration.